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ably a great many others, had been bold enough to suppose this fact without first consulting him. He is manifestly a schoolmaster, or, as modern American terminology has it, an "educator," and he attempts in twelve dismal chapters and with the aid of diagrams and plans, together with a map as recent as 1856, to "educate" us to a vague conception of the building or formation of the island of St. Croix in the Danish West Indies. The above quotation gives an idea of his average style, but we shall not attempt to give specimens of the pedantry displayed in almost every part of the book. It is difficult to conceive whether that book is written for a well-informed public or for a primary school. If for the former, the childish object lessons, as in the first chapter, the tiresome and almost offensive explanation of the cause why lime-rock effervesces in muriatic acid and clay does not, the interesting statement that soils are classed among rocks, and the almost endless dissertation on Foraminiferæ and the like are wholly superfluous; if for children, the bulk of the text has too many pretensions to being technical.

We look in vain for terse, logical conclusions. All we can discern is, that the author favours the opinion that there may have been two successive formations of the island, one, possibly anterior of the Cretaceous period and followed by submersion; then again, slow upheavals and subsequent deposits so as to form another dry surface. The latter "perhaps" at the time of the chalk formation. Trap dikes indicate that the volcanic forces have, to a limited extent, risen to the degree of eruption on the surface. We do not attempt to penetrate any further into the intricacies of the book, wishing the reader much patience in his endeavours to peruse it. The illustrations are mostly quite commendable. A. F. B.

British Rainfall, 1907. By Hugh Robert Mill. 8vo. London, Stanford, 1908. Pp. 280.

The 47th volume of *British Rainfall*—surely a good, long record of important scientific work, faithfully done. Dr. Mill, in his report, notes that the late Mr. G. J. Symons began his systematic observations of rainfall at 9 A. M., Jan. 2, 1858, so that the fiftieth year of the Camden Square rainfall station was completed Jan. 1, 1908, a half-century of unbroken observations. When we read of the many activities of Dr. Mill, the present director of the British Rainfall Organization, we can but wonder at his being able to carry on this rainfall work so successfully, year by year. The present volume contains the records of over 4,000 observers. There are special discussions of important rainfall features of the year; of the thunderstorms of July 21 and 22, with half-tone views of damage caused by them; extracts from Dr. Mill's address before the Royal Meteorological Society on "Mapping Rainfall," and the usual observers' notes, and tabulations.

R. DEC. W.